

His Majesties  
Most Gracious  
**SPEECH**  
TO  
Both Houses  
OF  
**PARLIAMENT;**  
*On MONDAY*  
*the One and twentieth of March, 1664.*



**LONDON,**  
Printed by John Ball and Christopher  
Barker, Printers to the Kings most  
Excellent Majesty, 1664.

**CUM PRIVILEGIO.**

His Majesties

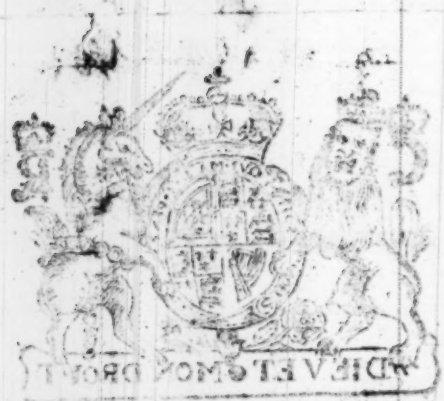
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usually whispered, and industriously inculcated into the minds of the People. That the Par-

ed by Prorogation, that they should be kept without a Parliament. I day watch there we have seen a man who use their utmost endeavours to sow jealousies between you and Me: and I do promise you they shall not prevail with Me; and I do promise My self they shall not prevail with you; and the truth is We are both concerned in the same.

**His Majesty's**  
**Most Gracious**  
**S P E E C H**  
 To both H O U S E S of  
**PARLIAMENT,**

On Monday the One and Twentieth  
of March, 1661.

*My Lords and Gentlemen*

**Y**OU see, God be thanked,  
you have met together  
again at the time appoint-  
ed; and I do assure you  
I have been so far from  
ever intending it should  
be otherwise, that I do  
not know one person who ever wished it  
should be otherwise. Think therefore, I  
pray, what good meaning those men could  
have, who from the time of the Proroga-  
tion to the day of your Meeting, have continu-  
ally



(64)

usually whispered, and industriously infused  
into the minds of the People. That the Par-  
liament should meet, and that the House  
either be presently Dissolved, or be continu-  
ed by Prorogation, that they should be  
kept without a Parliament. I pray watch  
these Whispers all you can, as men who  
use their utmost endeavours to sow jealousies  
between you and Me: and I do promise  
you they shall not prevail with Me; and I  
do promise My Self they shall not prevail  
with you; and the truth is, We are both  
concerned they should not; and We shall  
then with Gods blessing prevent all the mis-  
chief they intend.

You may judge by the late Treason in  
the North, for which so many men have  
been executed, how active the spirits of  
many of Our old Enemies still are, notwith-  
standing all Our Mercy. I do assure you, We  
are not yet at the bottom of that business.  
This much appears manifestly, that this Con-  
spiracy was but a branch of that which I dis-  
covered as well as I could to you about Two  
years since, and had been then executed near-  
er hand, if I had not by Gods goodness come  
to the knowledge of some of the principal  
Contrivers, and so secured them from doing  
the mischief they intended. And if I had not  
by the like Providence, had timely notice of  
the very hour, and several places of their Ren-

dezvous

dezvouz in the North, and provided for them accordingly, by sending some of My own Troops, as well as by drawing the Trained Bands together, their conjunction would have been in greater numbers then had been convenient.

You will wonder (but I tell true) they are now even in those Parts, and at this time, when they see their Friends under Trial and Execution, still pursuing the same Consultations: and it is evident, they have Correspondence with Desperate Persons in most Counties, and a standing Council in this Town, from which they receive their Directions, and by whom they were advised to defer their last-intended Insurrection; but those Orders served only to distract them, and came too late to prevent their Destruction. I know more of their Intrigues, then they think I do, and hope I shall shortly discover the bottom; in the mean time I pray let Us all be as watchful to prevent, as they are to contrive their mischief.

I cannot omit upon this occasion to tell you, that these desperate men in their Councils (as appears by several Examinations) have not been all of one mind in the ways of carrying on their wicked Resolutions: Some would still insist upon the Authority of the Long Parliament, of which they say they have Members enough willing to meet; others have fancied to themselves, by some Computation

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of their own, upon some Clause in the Triennial Bill, that this present Parliament was at an end some moneths since, and that for want of new Writs, they may assemble themselves, and chuse Members for Parliament; and that this is the best Expedient to bring themselves together for their other purposes. For the Long Parliament, you & I can do no more then we have done, to inform and compose the minds of all men; let them proceed upon their peril. But methinks there is nothing done to disabuse them in respect of the Triennial Bill. I confess to you, My Lords and Gentlemen, I have often My self read over that Bill, and though there is no colour for the Fancy of the Determination of this Parliament, yet I will not deny to you, that I have always expected that you would, and even wondred that you have not considered the wonderful Clauses in that Bill, which passed in a Time very uncareful for the Dignity of the Crown, or the Security of the People. I pray, Mr. Speaker, and you Gentlemen of the House of Commons, give that Triennial Bill once a Reading in your House, and then in Gods name, do what you think fit for Me, and your selves, and the whole Kingdom. I need not tell you how much I love Parliaments; never King was so much beholding to Parliaments as I have been, nor do I think the Crown can ever be  
Happy



Happy without frequent Parliaments. But assure your selves, if I should think otherwise, I would never suffer a Parliament to come together by the means prescribed by that Bill.

*My Lords and Gentlemen,* I must renew My Thanks to you, for the Free Supply you gave Me this last Session, of Four Subsidies; yet I cannot but tell you, That that Supply is fallen much short of what I expected, or you intended: It will hardly be believed, yet you know it to be true, that very many persons who have Estates of Three and Four thousand pounds a year, do not pay for these Four Subsidies Sixteen pounds; so that whereas you intended and declared, That they should be collected according to former Precedents, they do not now arise to half the Proportion they did in the time of Queen *Elizabeth*; and yet sure the Crown wants more now, then it did then, and the Subject is at least as well able to give.

The truth is, by the License of the late ill Time, and ill Humour of this, too many of the People, and even of those who make fair Professions, believe it to be no sin to defraud the Crown of any thing that is due to it. You no sooner give me Tonnage and Poundage, then men are devising all the ways they can to steal Custom; nor can the Farmers be so vigilant for the Collection, as others are to steal the Duties. You give me the Excise, which all people abroad believe to be the most insensible Imposition that can be laid upon a people: what Conspiracies

spiracies and Combinations are entred into against it by the Brewers, who I am sure bear not that burthen themselves, even to bring that Revenue to nothing; you will hear in *Westminster-Hall*. You have given me the Chimney-money, which you have reason to believe is a growing Revenue; for men build at least fast enough, and you will therefore wonder that it is already declined, and that this half year brings in less then the former did; I pray therefore review that Bill, and since I am sure you would have me receive whatsoever you give, let me have the Collecting & Husbanding of it by my own Officers, and then I doubt not but to improve that Receipt, and will be cozened of as little as I can.

I will conclude with desiring and conjuring you, My Lords and Gentlemen, to keep a very good Correspondence together, that it may not be in the power of any seditious or factious Spirits to make you jealous of each other, or either of you jealous of Me, til you see Me pretend one thing & do another, which I am sure you have never yet done; trust Me, it shall be in no bodies power to make me jealous of you. I pray contrive any good short Bills which may improve the Industry of the Nation; and since the season of the year will invite Us all shortly to take the Countrey Air, I desire you would be ready for a Session within two moneths or thereabouts, and We will meet next earlier in the year. And so God bless your Councils.

FINIS.



